

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS *Board of Education*

Work Session – June 11, 2018

MINUTES

President Jon Shiflett called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. He led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call by Superintendent Metcalf indicated the presence of **Board Members:** Ben Cwayna, Denise DuFort, Beverly Winstanley, Kim Mulvenna, Patrick McKennon, Sara Clark Pierson and Jon Shiflett. **Central Office Administrators:** Steve Gabriel, Mike Johnson, Nancy Rasinske, Sara Sutherland and Mark Deschaine. **Others in Attendance:** Jen Bouck, Greg Almy, Lorene Kappler, Destiny Mueller, Vikitoria Stasinski, Sabrina Richter, Brad Hemmes and Kim Manning.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

PRESENTATION ITEMS

A. FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Lorene Kappler in conjunction with Destiny Mueller, a student here through the Youth for Understanding program, presented the board with a certificate from the US Department of State and Youth for Understanding Program recognizing the participation of Grand Ledge High School with Youth Exchange programs that promote mutual understanding, respect and tolerance for future generations of global leaders.

GLHS Youth for Understanding Exchange student Destiny Mueller introduced herself noting she is 17 years old and from Germany. She explained what the opportunity to participate in the Youth for Understand program meant to her and the impact the program can have on all students who participate by getting rid of prejudices and bringing more understanding to different cultures. She thanked the board for their continued support of the foreign exchange program, thanked her teachers for their support and thanked her host family. She noted that allowing the foreign exchange students to participate in prom and graduation was a wonderful experience and something that is not done in Germany. She commended the board for the number of class offerings and sports and extra curricular activities they that were allowed to partake in. In closing she again thanked the board for the opportunity noting it has “changed my life

Vikitoria Stasinski, also from Germany, thanked the board for the opportunity provided her through the foreign exchange student programs. She noted she participated in cheer, gymnastics and tennis, which provided her another great opportunity to meet people and get involved. She remarked she enjoyed her classes and appreciated the number of choices she had to choose from. She thanked all of her teacher, but especially Ms. Williams. Vikitoria also commented on being able to participate in the American tradition of prom and graduation. In closing, she again thanked the board for allowing her to be a part of the Grand Ledge Public Schools community noting everyone was very welcoming.

Sabrina Richter, also from Germany, thanked the board for the opportunity to be a part of the community. She thanked Ms. Williams noting she was always there for her and took time to make sure all the exchange students were taken care of. She thanked her host family for opening their house and their hearts to her and thanked Mr. Szczerowski and Ms. Zeko noting they were amazing. She advised she played on the JV Tennis team and was delighted the team went undefeated this year. In closing, again she thanked the board for allowing her to find so many friends.

Mrs. Kappler addressed the board recognizing the difference this program can make in the lives of these young people. She thanked them for their continued support of the foreign exchange student program and for allowing the students to be here tonight.

B. COMMUNITY SURVEY REPORT FROM GMB ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS

Brad Hemmes from GMB Architects & Engineers provided a detailed overview of the recent community survey they conducted. He reviewed the demographics of the participants noting over 2,000 people contributed their voice. Most notable was the overwhelming importance of technology to the learning experience with 86% of the participants rating it as extremely or very important. He noted that approximately 65% of the participants would support the district-wide building restructuring of creating K-4 buildings, a 5-6 building at Hayes and 7-8 building at Beagle. Approximately 60% of respondents like the option of two proposals on a ballot versus having one, all-inclusive proposal. Proposal 1, which would support the majority of the restructuring received overwhelming support from the respondents at almost 71% in support. Proposal 2 noted approximately 43% support with almost 33% undecided, which shows more information will need to be shared on this proposal and similarly an all-inclusive proposal received overall support from 44% of the respondents with 31% undecided.

Mr. Hemmes noted the district team has scheduled a preliminary prequalification meeting with the Department of Treasury for next week. After this meeting, any necessary changes or revisions would be made to the bond application and would be brought to the board on June 25th for approval to submit the forms to Treasury. Treasury then has 30 days to give the district final approval to move forward with the proposals. Once approved by Treasury, the board must vote to place the proposal(s) on the November Ballot. We would anticipate that to happen at the August 13th meeting.

Mr. Hemmes went on to explain how the financing of the two proposals will work noting GMB conducted an in depth look at all the district's facilities with the goal of creating a master plan for the next 10 years. They looked at programming and restructuring. The projected bond proposals are a multi-tiered series. This means initially, 85% of the projected funds must be expended within the first three years and 100% of the funds must be expended within 5 years. This means, if the bond passes in November, the first series of bonds would be sold in 2019, the second series in 2022 and the third in 2025. This is a cost savings option to the taxpayers as interest on the later series is not collected until the bonds are sold. In the meantime, the district continues to pay down its older debt before any new debt comes into play. This also allows the district to space out projects so everything doesn't come due at the same time.

ACTION ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF THE PAYMENT OF SINKING FUND INVOICES

Motion by Mrs. Winstanley, seconded by Mrs. Mulvenna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the payment of Sinking Fund Invoices in the amount of \$30,000, as presented.

Mrs. Winstanley advised this represents the first invoice to replace the boiler system at Sawdon.

The motion carried unanimously.

B. APPROVAL OF DISTRICT PRINT SERVICE AGREEMENTS

Motion by Mrs. Clark Pierson, seconded by Mrs. Winstanley for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the District Print Service Agreements, as presented.

Mark & Nancy advised the board this would be to purchase copiers for the entire district from American Office Services (AOS) while using a payment option with Huntington Bank. They explained purchasing the machines is a better option for the district as lease to own has not served the district well. In addition, there are currently any different models and brands of copiers and printers throughout the district and implementing a managed print service it brings greater control and cost savings to the district.

Mr. Deschaine explained he met with each building principal and they are all in agreement with the implementation plan. Print devices will be cut by 30% but copiers will also be in place.

Brad from AOS spoke to the board noting Mr. Deschaine did a very indepth evaluation of the equipment currently in the district and built a solution based on what is best for the district. He noted this is a very well thought out implementation that will be more efficient and effective for the teachers and staff.

The motion carried unanimously.

C. BOARD POLICY FD300 – FACILITY NAMING – 1ST READING

Superintendent Metcalf read the proposed changes to the current policy noting the original policy was implemented in 1994.

Discussion among the members showed support for the revisions with a few small changes in the language. This item will be brought back for approval of the full board at the June 25th Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

District Employee and GLEA President Greg Almy spoke to the board with respect to the proposed bond proposal and the restricting of the school system asking if GMB disseminated out how many people were community/parents and how many were staff and if this changed the over support rate? He asked what Proposal 1 will look like and what Proposal 2 will look like?

Superintendent Metcalf advised they did and there was not a significant change in the support percentage. He advised that he and Dr. Gabriel met with several different employee groups including principals, 5/6 teachers, music teachers, literacy leaders, math leaders and special education leaders, along with our community faith leaders to discuss what the restructuring would look like. He advised Proposal 1 will address the needs of restructuring, adding classrooms and multi-purpose rooms where necessary, developing a road out to Saginaw at the High School implementing safety and road redevelopment at Hayes and Beagle to name a few but all the main components. Proposal 2 would address more of the fine arts and community rec opportunities, those that would implement a greater benefit to our community. In closing, he advised it will take everyone to ensure everyone understands and knows what the proposals are. There will be meetings with staff throughout the district as well as community meetings.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF AND BOARD

Dr. Gabriel thanked Ms. Kappler noting he loves to hear from the foreign exchange students and he believes this program is an important component we do here at Grand Ledge to improve the culture and climate of our high school.

Mr. McKennon noted graduation was amazing and that it was wonderful to see the constant flow of teachers moving to give diplomas, hugs, hand shakes, crying and then doing it all over again with another student. He suggested we look at ways to include the elementary and middle school teachers in the graduation process noting several people take a part in getting these students to graduation. Dr. Metcalf and Dr. Gabriel advised these conversations are taking place.

Mrs. Clark Pierson noted that when the foreign exchange students speak to the board, they always mention being able to participate in sports, prom, graduation; it is such an integral part of their experience here.

Mr. Cwayna expressed his support of finding a way to be more inclusive with the lower grade level teachers' involvement with graduation.

Mrs. DuFort agreed that Grand Ledge does a great job with our commencement ceremony but the support these children have received starts well before they reach the stage and she would support being more inclusive of all our staff. She was impressed with the foreign exchange students and again expressed support of this program. In closing she noted it will be important to get specifics regarding the bond proposals out to all our staff and community.

Mrs. Winstanley noted the teacher shout outs from the foreign exchange students is greatly appreciated.

Mrs. Mulvenna expressed she is grateful that GMB has taken a very different approach with this bond proposal by starting at the building / parent / community level and working their way back.

Mr. Cwayna agreed with Mrs. Mulvenna and stressed the importance of ensuring an understanding within our community that we are being very responsible with these proposals with the multi-tiers systems and how that will impact our community, especially to those that don't have kids attending.

Mr. Almy interjected that he believes it is important to be able to show the community the cost savings the district has recognized as a result of the new turf field as well as highlight the revenue it has generated for the district and the community at large – it brings it people from around the state noting its good for our local businesses.

CLOSED SESSION – Negotiations

Motion by Mrs. Clark Pierson, seconded by Mrs. DuFort for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to move into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Negotiations Strategies, as Per Section 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act, PA 267 of 1976.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Mrs. Winstanley	YES	President Shiflett	YES
Mrs. Clark Pierson	YES	Mr. Cwayna	YES
Mrs. Mulvenna	YES	Mr. McKennon	YES
Mrs. DuFort	YES		

The motion carried unanimously at 7:21 pm

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 7:36 pm.

APPROVAL OF EMPLOYEE CONTRACT

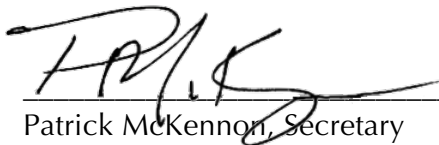
Motion by Mrs. Winstanley, seconded by Mrs. Mulvenna for the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education to approve the contract with the Custodial Association, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

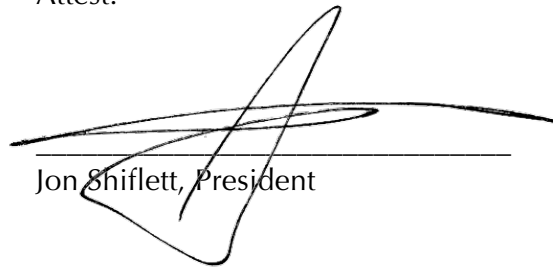
The meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:



Patrick McKennon, Secretary



Jon Shiflett, President